

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE—
EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 20, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, and that once reported, the Senate proceed to vote as follows:

Calendar No. 34, the nomination of Tony West; Calendar No. 35, the nomination of Lanny Breuer; Calendar No. 36, the nomination of Christine Anne Varney.

I further ask that prior to each vote, there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form; and after the first vote in this sequence, the succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes each; that upon confirmation of the nominations, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, as if read, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER R. HILL TO BE AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 43, the nomination of Christopher R. Hill, to be Ambassador to Iraq.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

Harry Reid, John F. Kerry, Richard Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Jon Tester, Tom Udall, Dianne Feinstein, Edward E. Kaufman, Mark Begich, Frank R. Lautenberg, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Bernard Sand-

ers, Christopher J. Dodd, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of the nominations specified in a previous order for Monday, April 20, there be 20 minutes of debate, equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees prior to the cloture vote on the Hill nomination, and that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL MICHAEL OUELLETTE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to express my sympathy over the loss of Marine Cpl Michael W. Ouellette, a 29-year-old native of Manchester, NH. Corporal Ouellette died on March 22, 2009, as a result of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device while on foot patrol in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. Another marine was killed in the attack and two others were injured.

Corporal Ouellette graduated from Memorial High School in Manchester in 1999. He joined the Marines in June 2005 and was trained as an infantryman. He served two terms in Iraq, deploying there in March 2006 and again in July 2007. He began his third tour overseas when he deployed to Afghanistan in November 2008. Ouellette was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, NC.

Corporal Ouellette served with honor and distinction throughout his highly decorated military career. He received a number of awards for his duty, including the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

New Hampshire is proud of Corporal Ouellette's service to and sacrifice for our country. He, and the thousands of brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces serving today, deserve America's highest honor and recognition.

Corporal Ouellette is survived by his parents, Donna and Leonard Ouellette, as well as a brother, Alan, and a sister, Stephanie. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew him.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring U.S. Marine Cpl Michael Ouellette.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and a deep sense of gratitude to pay tribute to Cpl Michael Ouellette of Manchester, NH, for his service and the sacrifice he paid for his country.

Michael exhibited willingness and enthusiasm to serve and defend his country after visiting hurricane-ravaged New Orleans in 2005. He subsequently joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in Iraq before deploying to Afghanistan. Tragically, on March 22, 2009, Michael paid the ultimate sacrifice. In support of his brothers in arms and the country he loved, Michael was killed by an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Corporal Ouellette will live on as a decorated hero and the epitome of a patriot.

Michael graduated from Manchester Memorial High School in 1999. A beloved member of the Manchester community, Michael was the embodiment of selflessness. With the same sense of altruistic integrity that led him to help an unfamiliar and unsuspecting Memorial High classmate fix a flat tire; Michael answered the call to help his country.

In giving his life to protect our freedoms, Michael personified our greatest attributes as citizens. His hard work and dedication was paramount to his unit's success and places him among the great heroes and citizens our state has known. Michael was regularly recognized for his courageous actions in Afghanistan and Iraq, receiving the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He will always be remembered for his courage, kindness, and unwavering devotion.

My thoughts, condolences, and prayers go out to Michael's family. I offer them my deepest sympathies and heartfelt thanks for Michael's service. We will keep his memory alive knowing that his efforts have made us safer and have preserved the liberties we enjoy every day. God Bless Michael Ouellette.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Sixty years ago this April, NATO was created to ensure the freedom and security of western nations in the aftermath of the Second World War. Since